

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the biopolymers comprise peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, especially DNA and/or RNA, oligo- and/or polysaccharides.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the DNA is a genomic or a plasmid DNA.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A Method~~ method for isolating a substance of interest, especially a biopolymer, from a sample comprising different substances and being located in a compartment having an inlet opening as well as an outlet opening and a porous matrix material arranged therebetween, to which the substances of the sample are immobilized by means of different affinities, comprising the following steps:

- feeding a wash buffer into the inlet opening of the compartment for releasing those substances from the matrix material the affinity of which to the matrix material is smaller than the affinity by means of which the substance of interest is bound to the material,

- drawing the wash buffer and the solved substances through the matrix material by means of low pressure and out of the outlet opening of the compartment, by using the device operated for filtering under reduced pressure according to claim 19,
- removing of residual material which might still be present on the outlet opening of the compartment,
- and feeding an elution buffer into the inlet opening of the compartment for releasing substantially merely the substance of interest from the matrix material,
- drawing the elution buffer and the substance of interest by means of low pressure through the matrix material and out of the outlet opening of the compartment, by using the device operated for filtering under reduced pressure, and
- during filtration, collecting the elution buffer and the substance of interest exiting from the outlet opening into a compartment inserted into the device.

18. (Currently Amended)      The method according to claim 17, ~~wherien~~wherein the substance of interest is a nucleic acid, oligo- or polynucleotide.

19. (Currently Amended)      A method for selectively filtering mixtures containing biopolymers utilizing an apparatus containing compartments comprising inlet and outlet openings of a carrier body under reduced pressure

and for vacuum drying drops of the mixtures present in the area of the outlet openings of the compartments, ~~Including comprising:~~

- a chamber (24) comprising an interior space (46) limited by a top wall (40), a bottom wall (38) and lateral walls (42, 44) connecting them,
- the top wall (40) comprising an opening (48) with an opening edge (52) whereon a closing lid (84) or the carrier body (26) can selectively be placed in a substantially gastight manner by means of outlet openings (32) directed towards the interior space (46) of the chamber (24),
- one of the lateral walls being formed as an access lateral wall (44) which can be opened and closed substantially gastightly for introducing the carrier body (26) into the interior space (46) of the chamber (24), and
- the bottom wall (38) comprising a drain (76, 78) for liquid exiting from the outlet openings (32) of the compartments (28) of the carrier body (26), and
- a vacuum pump (82) with a suction conduit (81) terminating in the interior space (46) of the chamber (24) for producing a first low pressure for drawing liquid samples through the outlet openings (32) of the compartments (28) with the carrier body (26) being placed on the opening edge (50) of the top wall (40) and the access lateral wall (44) of the chamber (24) being closed and for producing a second low pressure higher than the first low pressure for drying drops of liquid samples still present on the outlet openings (32) of the compartments (28) with the carrier body (26) being located in the interior space (48) of the chamber (24)

and the lid (84) being placed on the opening edge (50) of the top wall (40) as well as the access lateral wall (44) of the chamber (24) being closed, said method comprising separating, isolating and/or purifying biopolymers from said mixtures containing said biopolymers.